

FRAUD ALERT!

From the Office of Madison County Sheriff David Schenk

Lottery Scam Returns

The Madison County Sheriff's Office has received notice that a version of the Canadian Lottery Scam is again flooding the United States. This is how the scam works:

The victim receives a notice in the mail declaring that he/she has won a large prize in the Canadian Lottery. Included in the envelope is a cashier's check for several thousand dollars. The check is to cover expenses that have to be paid before the victim can claim his/her winnings. The victim is instructed to cash or deposit the check and send the money back to Canada to pay those expenses. The winnings will be sent as soon as the money is returned. The check, while looking very real, is a fake. By the time the victim discovers that the check is a fake, he/she has already sent his/her own "good" check to someone unknown, and often untraceable. To protect yourself:

1. Never deposit or spend any funds received from an unknown source until you have verified its authenticity. Take it to your bank and ask them to determine if it is real.

2. If you receive notice that you won a prize in a lottery or sweepstakes, stop and think before you do anything.

- Did you enter the contest? If you did not enter you cannot be a winner.

- Are you being asked to send any money for fees, taxes, shipping, etc. in order to claim your prize? In a legitimate contest, you never have to pay any money before receiving your prize.



**For assistance call the
Madison County Sheriff's Office:
(800)763.4439**

February 2007